

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. The claim amendment is based on the specification at page 9, lines 9-11.

**DRAWINGS**

The Examiner has not indicated on the Office Action Summary that the formal drawings filed with the application on August 10, 2001 are accepted. *Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge entry of the formal drawings in the next communication.*

**IDS**

Applicants have filed an IDS on January 29, 2005. *Applicants request that the Examiner return a copy of the related Form SB/08 with the next communication.*

**Rejections Under 35 USC 102**

Applicants submit that for the following reasons the amended claims are novel over the cited references. The present invention displays higher bond strength and better sealing of the butt-joined surfaces in comparison to those surfaces of the prior art. This improved structural feature is recited in the present claims, thereby distinguishing the present claims over the prior art.

**Conclusion**

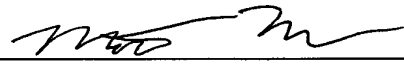
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 26, 2005

By \_\_\_\_\_

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Washington Harbour  
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143  
Telephone: (202) 672-5300  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Matthew E. Mulkeen  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 44,250